Approval of Safety Equipments by BIS

3393. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that safety equipments installed on buildings, airports, etc. are not approved by Bureau of Indian Standards in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for installation of such unapproved equipments; and

(c) when such equipments would be removed and approved equipments installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has formulated a large number of Indian Standards for safety equipments which may be installed on buildings, airport etc. Out of these, three standards relating to electrical accessories like circuit breakers are covered under BIS Mandatory Certification Scheme. The concerned construction agencies are responsible for installation of approved safety equipments in buildings, airports etc.

Liberalising Retail Trade Sector

3394. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which Government are emphasizing on liberalizing the retail trade sector in India; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to protect the livelihood of this huge section of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Liberalization of the retail trade sector is being emphasized in order to remove the impediments to higher growth of the retail trade sector with a view to, *inter-alia,* achieving improvements in the quality of

employment, reduction in cost of intermediation leading to lower prices for the consumers and better price realization to the farmers and development of real estate. No decision has been taken on allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector. The Government is carefully weighing the advantage and the concerns expressed in certain quarters on the likely impact of opening up the retail sector to FDI.

Black Marketing of ration Items by FPS holders

3395. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI THENNALAG. BALAKRISHNAPILLAI:
SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KB. KRISHNAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people living below poverty line are not getting the ration items forcing them to purchase the same from the open market at high prices; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take to check the black-marketing of ration items by fair price shop holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No such instances has come to the notice of the Government. Under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Rice, Wheat and Sugar is being allocated to the State Government/ UTs. Kerosene (SKO) allocation is also made by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to the State Governments/UTs for distribution under the PDS network. TPDS is supplemental in nature. 35 kg foodgrains per ration card per month is supplied under the system, which meets approximately 50% of the requirement of a average family of 5.5 members. The rest of the foodgrains requirement is bought by the families from the market. Distribution of the ration items to the beneficiaries in an efficient and transparent manner through the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations.